

Cumberland Lake, New - Jan 10th. 1857 -

Monday Twelfth night

Dear Charlie, I really felt quite cross this afternoon, to think that here we were in England, near London, & this Twelfth-night, & the last of the holidays, and truly I might have been in Patagonia as to anything I have seen or known of these famed English tarts! - so be sure there were some little frosted cakes displayed in the solitary baker's shop & S. V. here at New, & to appease me a little, I believe, Dr. Gray sent to get me, for which we paid a pretty smart price, & gave the half to our nice, old landladies - It turned out only a very ordinary kind of coedding cake - I have saved the extraordinary figures of King & Queen so on the top, to put, in the next package which goes home, for the children - But it is something of a disappointment to have these days go by so quietly & unnoticed, wh. on the other side of the Atlantic, we are apt to fancy a sort of Orational jubilee -

But to continue my journal since I posted last Friday's letter. It certainly rained very steadily that afternoon, & night closed in even earlier than usual. I did not say in my last letter what an amusing letter we received from Martinus; you would have enjoyed it. He began by congratulating Dr. Gray, that, "at last, my dear friend, I may write in the happy certainty that all is over!" - He then assures him that "he had a sudden & mysterious anxious feeling for him, on Sunday aft. Nov. 30, at 5 o'clock," which was the Sunday after the accident, when the physician was so anxious, as it afterwards appeared; or he told his fears to Dr. Harvey, & advised him to give me some preparation, lest I should be too much frightened should they decide to send for surgeons for a consultation - Dr. H. gave me some hint, but I took a wrong idea, & was anxious for other imaginary troubles when they feared a piercing of the diaphragm; but this is a depression; however, I feel quite Mrs. Nicklebyish tonight, & roam away as the ideas suggest - However after telling Dr. Gray, to get back to Prof. Martinus) that though it "must have entered in this days;" "she may have proved to you what an anxious mind is such an loony woman in the hours of her husband's suffering." (unfortunately I must tell him on the contrary Dr. Gray used his first long breath to give me a scolding, which ended in a lively quarrel; he winds up with "fare well forever!" - But though his English is odd, he certainly is as warm-hearted as man can be! -

Saturday it cleared off, and I took an exploring walk to Richmond, some 1/2 miles off, to explore the circulating library & "the shops" - Tell Sue I returned armed with a little flat iron - But that I do not expect to do much "in doing up smuchins" it is too troublesome - It would have been a pleasant walk, but for my poor, lame feet - I made myself busy sewing in the rest of the day; but the cold in my head had descended, & become a most tremendous pain, & I don't think the walk improved it - So Sunday I would not inflict the noise on any congregation, lest the scaldle turn me out, & Dr. Gray walked alone to the Independent Chapel at Richmond. In the afternoon we took advantage of the private key Sir Wm. has so kindly furnished us with, & had the pleasure of a walk in the garden quite by ourselves - For public visitors are not admitted on Sundays - I cannot tell you how superb & extensive these gardens are; & how beautiful even at this season of the year; the grass is charmingly fresh & green, so many large leaved evergreen shrubs, Portuguese Laurels, Arbutus, Laurestinas, &c. & our own rhododendrons & Kalmias keeping their leaves as fresh as summer; then holly trees & pine oaks & evergreens take much away from the winter aspect of the trees that have lost their leaves; the swans & ducks were swimming in their pretty pond, many little herbaceous things were already pushing above ground, - if it were not for the very short days one would feel & smell ^{per}mas vent near - There are so many fine ^{per} boxes too, & in such fine order! - Today I have been lazy, & not been ^{out} _{it was} ^{out} _{it was} in the first part of the day, so I made an excuse of my cold to myself, & settled for indoor occupation - And when it brightened later, I was busy, & put it off until too late - Poor Sir Wm. Hooker has been in bed since Saturday with lumbago - He is quite an invalid in health just now - He had an attack in his throat last summer, & it has left him subject to spasms in his throat, very distressing & alarming; ~~but~~ they hope he gradually improves - Miss Hooker had been an invalid & delicate for years - And Lady Hooker was threatened with a cough a year & a quarter ago, & has never recovered her strength & vigor since - So they are really quite an invalid household - Lady Hooker sent us a quantity of the very nice little crushed nettles, Garmouth's Hoates. They are very different from our large strong kind, & Dr. Gray relishes them very much with his breakfast - And Saturday she sent me such a sweet bunch of violets! they have been scenting our room ever since! - I have been writing to Charles Brace - He found a letter from him when we reached here, & said

he was & saw the winter in Germany - I was told one of your Anna was in address at Rome - And pray if any of you ever see that woman called Mary Hooper, reproach her sumnerfully that she has never written to me, & tell me something about her. -

Friday, Jan 10th

Tuesday I walked up to call on the Hookers & accompany Dr. Gray home - And in the evening came the American letters - I had not expected them - For the steamer did not get in as usual Sunday, & we had not them at the paper till it had come - There came also one from Aunt Sigs at Paris - Thanks to me, Siggie, John & Joe - I am glad for Anna Grace's happy prospects, but it must be very sad for Aunt Betsey & Uncle to be left without their children - How dull it seems to go back & see what we were doing different days at the same time, & how the weather & all were - The evening before Little Pat's birth-day was the first snow we have seen, & the next day it seems it snowed with you - Oh! see how I laughed over your dead mouse - You & Patrick have such noses! I always fancy you in distress at something in that unhappy sense; you must go into the country - I am sure you could neither if you endure to travel in Europe - I should think Pat's dress would be very handsome - But don't dress them too much, see dear that is only for their own sakes; for I fear, to have them I think too much of it, though one enjoys seeing them look prettily. And you are so quick & skilful with your needle, I quite envy you - Your envelopes, Patrick, are worth a great deal! I am afraid I shall be thought as devoted an Auntie on this side of the Atlantic as the other, for I laugh so over the children's speeches I cannot keep them to myself - I am afraid Little Pat is treading in my footsteps in the arithmetical line - "60 's make 16:" I know I was obstinate over a sum 3 days, because as the pence were to be divided & were alive, one man must have had a pence, or 40! - And Little Charlie's vanity! - Why didn't you send the long funny letter too, Siggie, the postage would have included it, and you need never be afraid I can get too many letters - And do not think me ungrateful for what I said about yours - But I suppose you often, as I do myself, think of a thing some time, intending to write it, & then fancy you have - And besides I am unreasonable, & would fain lead two lives at once, one here & the other at home with you all - And be sure I read your letters & all many times over - And thank you many times for your nice long account of Kitty; I will extract all I have written, allowing you for not telling about her - How vexatious it sometimes is! you write, & the next mail brings what you wanted! Then your reproaches come long after what you wished has been done, & seem most ungrateful - You are all so very faithful in writing to me! - I do think Kitty's "hand broke" was very

trifling & it shows what a good tempered little thing she is not to cry I long
to see her - She will be more changed than any when I get home! - And I
shall enjoy the daguerotype immensely - By the way send it by the Norton
we shall be sure to see them in London - Poor Tharrie's heart & fear is
quite too tender! - I am glad to hear Miss Bancroft is so well - What a
dearly engagement of Peter Appleton's, & she in such poor health too! - I was
sorry to hear Miss Grew's friend was in such poor health ^{heard it from the Bertrams} - Tell me some-
thing about her, Miss G. I hope Mrs Shaw's bath won't have quite so much
good made over her as she grows older, for it will be a poor preparation
for this life, to say nothing of an other - I truly pity a child which is too
much adored & worshipped, & surrounded with everything wealth can
procure - Temptations so innumerable are crowded around it, while
the very strength to resist is undermined! - I say tell John he shall have
a long business epistle next week. - Wednesday we dined with Lady
Boothby - And had a very quiet, pleasant day - For six Am. was not down
stairs - Yesterday we strolled for a day in London, hateful, horrid place!
So noisy, so confused, so large, & so dirty! - I am afraid I feel towards it
very much as poor Southern did, the first vol. of whose memoirs I have been
reading lately - We took the R.R. here at 10. Am. & it was bright & clear
& we got safely to the Waterloo Station, whence we walked to take an
omnibus - going over Waterloo Bridge I saw on the opposite side that
wonderful cage containing a cat, a mouse, an owl, a squirrel, a bird,
&c. &c. & would have stopped to look had it been our side, but crossing
is a serious undertaking from the crowd of vehicles, you must watch
your chance to dart between - Then the English inactivity is certainly justified
in London streets, & they are so "freaky"! this little shivering wind, which makes
one slip, &c. - And you experience all the discomforts in their fullest
when you go into the "city," where the dress-maker to whom the Gards
carried me, & who does our sewing is found - I looked with dismay
as we crossed Waterloo Bridge at the cloud of smoke hanging over
the "city," & thought of my new bonnet, more especially the new cap in it!
However I got through very well with the dress-maker, who was to alter
my black silk, low-necked waist, which she had been making for a
dinner dress - And then we wandered about, sometimes in omnibuses
sometimes on foot, doing some little things & not finding others - I think
on the whole shopping is more expensive than at home - Perhaps

he said he was otherwise bright, & walked off 10 Sir Mrs this morn.
where we dine today - a little dinner party - fancy - or rather one
or two gentlemen & one lady -

Oh, I must tell me of our adventures yesterday! I had been looking
for a tea-caddy, & finding nothing to suit me, decided to get a common
box, which should answer for the present - And passing a window
saw some apparently very cheap ones, labelled 1 Shilling! we went in
& chose one, & laying down a shilling, were informed it was 1s. 11d.
the said 11, being very small on the bottom of the card! When
upon Dr. Grey quietly laid down the box, took up the shilling & we
walked off - I with rather a heightened colour! Wasn't it rich!

Oh, I didn't tell you that Wednesday morn. I walked over to
Brentford the other side of the river, to get a money order cashed
for Dr. Gray - First you will ask what a money order is, & it is a very con-
venient thing - Say anyone in Liverpool wishes to pay you so, he goes
to the Post Office there, pays the 3 shillings, & 6 pence for an order on the
P.O. nearest you, saying to the clerk there in whose favour he has drawn
it, & enclosed the order in a letter to you - You go to the P.O. give the order,
having signed it with your name, & tell the clerk here who drew the
order in Liverpool - He has been notified by the clerk in L. who drew
the order, & in whose favour - And if your statement agrees, the money
is handed over to you - You may send any amount small or large,
only you cannot draw more than £5-2s in one order, & pay 6d if it
is over £2 - But it is much safer than sending money in a letter, & very
convenient for sums less than a bill, or note as they call it here, & of
which they have none less than £5 - And postage stamps are not al-
ways desirable - But, Brentford is an old town, Shakespeare
speaks of it, & is now a great manufacturing place - It was very
dirty, & the streets seemed to me to consist of Gin shops, public
houses, & pawnbrokers, with every now & then a baker, butcher's, or grocery
shop - It was a forlorn looking place, & a queer, miserable looking set
of people - I am sure I shall be indifferent to walking when I get
home; & will not complain even when the frost is coming out of
the ground, for that is only for a time - But here, where they have so
much wet weather, the dry walking is, I should think, the exceptional -
No wonder the English ladies dress in stout shoes & ordinary clothes for
walking; they could not do otherwise; & no wonder they drive so much, & have

a different attire for that - Gray you most affectionate love to all from your ever loving, Emma

after one has been there sometime & learnt exactly where to go it may be different, but except in some trifling things, ribbons, ^{subdivided} & one or two others, everything is dearer as I find it; & things are so scattered, it is hard work, for one at least, to find what I want - We had intended to go to Mrs. Lawrence's, but I was in no condition what with cold &c. so we agreed to postpone it; & after getting some most abominable soup for lunch, took our way to the Bortts - There Dr. Gray left me while he went to the Ben. Museum, &c. - And there I heard that Louisa Norton was to be soon married, & that they were coming abroad; & sundry other nice little pieces of news - Madam Bortt is a very interesting, delightful, old lady & so kind & affectionate; they are all very kind - Then Dr. Gray called to put me in an omnibus to go home, as he was to attend for a meeting of the Royal Society, & come home later - We walked & walked, & met no white omnibuses for Richmond, but at last saw a New Bridge which would only leave me ^{1/4} of a mile from our house; but in despair we sat on, as time was wearing fast away - Dr. Gray rode down to Piccadilly, as he was to go & get a Belt to support his side, & then made me good bye, meaning to come at 10^{1/2} - and saying I should get to the Bridge before dark - But as it grew dark my heart began to fail at the thought of the solitary walk, & at last all the passengers were out but myself. The conductor then politely asked me if I should have any objection to getting in to that other omnibus? which was a Richmond one - I said "no," & rejoiced in my heart, for they saw directly by our door; & so I got home very nicely - With an unsatisfied feeling as to the day's results, but still there is some amusement seeing the queer sights - I am sure one feels that Dickens does not exaggerate the half one supposes when you see the strange figures & things one meets; beggars & paupers, street-sweepers & fine ladies - I saw Mr. Drimby dining about - And then such odd names - Sweeting a fish-monger, & the day before in Brentford, y. I saw a butcher, reading five then there was Knapp & Bumpus &c. &c. - I was hungry & tired, & glad to see our dining room again; & industriously employed myself all the evening in making a pair of sleeves for today, & as it came 11^{1/2} I wondered my spouse did not arrive, & supposed he had been persuaded to stay all night; but in a few minutes after 12 he came, having been obliged to walk some 2 miles; those deceitful omnibuses! professing to go to New Bridge, - then having only one passenger so far, saying "they never go so far that time of night!" I feared Dr. Gray would be quite knocked up - But though he complained that his side felt weaker this morn.